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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Application: John R. Liddicoat et al.
Serial No.: 09/760,222
Filing Date: 01/12/2001
For: TISSUE ANNULOPLASTY BAND AND APPARATUS
AND METHOD FOR FASHIONING, SIZING AND
IMPLANTING THE SAME
Group Art Unit: 3738
Examiner: William H. Matthews
Attorney's Docket No.: VIA-14

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants hereby submit documents and information which may be considered material to the examination of this application. These documents and information are listed on the accompanying forms.

Copy of document 1, which is listed on the accompanying Form PTO/SB/08A (substitute for Form PTO-1449), is enclosed herewith.

Applicants respectfully request that this document be fully considered by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office during the examination of this application and printed on any patent which may issue on this application. Applicants also respectfully request that a copy of the Form PTO/SB/08A (substitute for Form PTO-1449) (one page), submitted herewith, as considered and initialed by the Examiner, be returned to the undersigned with the next communication.

It is believed that this disclosure complies with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98. If for any reason the Examiner considers otherwise, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned be contacted by the Examiner by telephone in order that any deficiencies may be expeditiously remedied.

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A check in the amount of One Hundred Eighty Dollars (\$180.00) payable to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks also is enclosed herewith to cover the fee due in connection with this submission.

The enclosed documents may have markings thereon. Applicants are not presently aware of the source of those markings, and no significance is meant to be attached thereto.

Please charge any additional fees due in connection with this submission, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 16-0221. A duplicate copy of this submission is enclosed for the convenience of the Examiner.

Thank you.

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May 4, 2004

(DATE OF DEPOSIT)

James A. Sheridan

(NAME OF ATTORNEY)

James A. Sheridan 5/4/04

(SIGNATURE)

May 4, 2004

(DATE OF SIGNATURE)

Respectfully submitted,

James A. Sheridan 5/4/04

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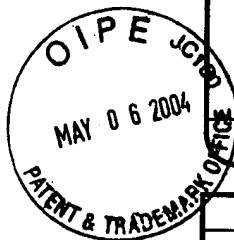
Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

Complete if Known

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet	1	of	1
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Application Number	09/760,222
Filing Date	01/12/2001
First Named Inventor	John R. Liddicoat et al.
Group Art Unit	3738
Examiner Name	William H. Matthews
Attorney Docket Number	VIA-14



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

Examiner
Signature

Date
Considered

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO:** Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

